

be the abstract right to bargain collectively, organize and bargain collectively, through representatives of their own choosing. That is correct.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any other discussion?

Delegate Maurer.

DELEGATE MAURER: A question for Delegate Kiefer, please.

THE PRESIDENT: Does any other delegate desire to discuss the question?

Delegate Willoner.

DELEGATE WILLONER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Convention—

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Maurer, the Chair will recognize you after discussion.

DELEGATE WILLONER: I had not expected to speak on this particular issue at all. However, in line with some of the remarks made by Delegate Kiefer I thought for the sake of the history of this record I should point out that when this issue of public employees was brought up in our Committee there was, in fact, a majority of the members of our Committee who wanted to relieve the problems that had been raised before us about public employees. The problem was that the Chairman put the question so badly that nobody ever got a chance to vote on it. I might point out that the testimony that we heard was that public employees had sought to bargain collectively and their employers wanted to bargain with them, but they said the case law prevented them from bargaining. We felt that we could free the legislature's hands so that they could, in fact, provide for negotiations between employees of the State and the state government.

I might point out that this would fall into the category of a technical provision because this would be a prohibition against preventing the State from negotiating with its employees. At the time they are not permitted to negotiate with their employees.

This was the thing that the majority of our Committee felt was a problem and needed to be resolved. Leaving it in the hands of the legislature allows flexibility. In case the situation ever arises when there is a need for such a situation or when labor peace may be served by this, it is here in the hands of the legislature.

This amendment really is worse and would result in, I think, more problems in

the present situation than we have in the Constitution now.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Mitchell, do you desire to speak for or against Amendment No. 15?

DELEGATE MITCHELL: Mr. Chairman, I desire to speak against the amendment.

THE PRESIDENT: You may proceed.

DELEGATE MITCHELL: I rise because I am afraid I have to leave my good friend, Chairman Kiefer, and good Presbyterian leader, good Boy Scout leader, outstanding citizen. I speak also because I have been moved over the weekend. I have been close to death. In fact, I came here to this Convention from the funeral of my secretary's mother whom I have known from her girlhood and when we come close to death, we have a tendency to say to ourselves, there, but for the grace of God go I. Then, as I look at the empty seat next to me, I think of my good friend, Delegate Miller who has a very serious illness, who may soon know and be able to answer the unanswerable questions. I remember him from when I was a girl when my mother used to come down to this legislature seeking justice. He knew no race prejudice because he said his mother was a Quaker and he lived on the Eastern Shore, but in spite of the policies and practices he took a stand; and there was a time when we had to look to him when we could look to no others.

I had the experience of looking at Martin Agronsky and the television chain as they questioned four of our young men who had left the armed service and fled to Sweden. One of them comes from Catonsville, from Maryland, one is the son of a naval leader. They were not hoodlums. They had performed well in the Service but they had found asylum in Sweden because they just could not accept our ambivalence and our compromising, continually compromising, with the things that we preach and our every day practices. I thought of those four young men lost to us and how we have failed them, and I think of all of the other people of the State and how we too fail them in this Constitutional Convention.

It was Plato who first said that the creation of an orderly world is the victory of persuasion over force. All of us know that when the industrial revolution ascended in this country and throughout the world, justice and equality were unheard of and it was the working people who finally evolved through many bloody days this important technique in our industrial age,